

FY 2008 Annual Program Performance Measures

DEPARTMENT:

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH

APPROPRIATION UNIT: BOARDS, AUTHORITIES, and COMMISSIONS

PROGRAM: Commission on Disability Concerns and Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearings

TIMELINE: October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008

FUND SOURCE:

Federal Funds
State Restricted Funds

LEGAL BASIS:

Public Act 118 of 2007

CUSTOMER IDENTIFICATION:

Customers - The Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns is the only state government agency charged with serving the broad range of disabilities experienced by Michigan citizens. Unlike other state programs which focus on disability issues, MCDC is not limited by customer age, geographic location, employment status, military experience nor any major life domain such as education, housing or transportation. Citizens who meet the legal definition of having a disability now exceed two million individuals in this state. The real and potential customer base for this relatively small Bureau is diverse and expansive.

FY 08 Highlights:

During FY '08, an interdepartmental workgroup was formed to draft the rules and regulations to implement the Sign Language Interpreter Act of 2007. these rules and regulations will implement and ensure the legislative intent that all Michigan citizens who are deaf will have quality, certified interpreters available for all important life transactions.

During FY '08, this office tested 322 interpreters for Quality Assurance. Staff also tested an additional 118 candidates who are interpreters in K-12 classrooms across the state. This testing is the Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA).

The Supplier Diversity Program provided technical assistance to over 500 vendors or potential vendors of disability owned businesses. The number of contracts awarded to these disability owned businesses increased from 57 in FY '07 to 132 in FY '08. The dollar value of these contracts grew from \$3,366,663.00 in FY '07 to just under \$13,000,000.00 in FY '08. The Supplier Diversity Program maintains a data base of 889 businesses owned by people with disabilities who are interested in securing state contracts.

MCDC-DODHH maintains an 800 number for voice and video remote interpreting services so that our resources on disability issues may be readily accessed by the disability community. These two services coupled with our website ensure quality and appropriate responses to citizen inquiries.

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Successful completion of the eighth annual Michigan Youth Leadership Forum occurred in June with a participation of 31 high school students with disabilities throughout the state.

During FY '08, MCDC-DODHH staff provided technical assistance and/or training to members of the state legislature, and the Departments of Education, Natural Resources, Civil Rights, Transportation, Corrections and Human Services.

CHALLENGES:

- MCDC-DODHH has for many years been under-funded relative to the responsibilities we have for over two million Michigan citizens with disabilities.
- Although we anticipate no retirements in FY '09, the current staff will be hard pressed to meet the requests for assistance that we receive and to fulfill the mandates under the new Sign Language Interpreters Act.
- Our two Supplier Diversity staff are jointly funded in salary and benefits by DLEG, DMB and DOT. The housing and travel for these two positions fall to this Bureau although no additional revenue has been provided to the Bureau for this purpose.
- Most importantly, the accommodation costs to this Bureau to perform its daily business are significantly disproportional to any other Bureau due to our extensive use of sign language interpreters for the Director of DODHH, the Advisory Council and many workgroups such as the Rules and Regulation Committee.
- In addition, this division must utilize expensive telephone technology to allow for alternative communication such as text messaging.
- The core staff of ten FTEs no longer have the support of contract personnel or student assistants as in the past due to lack of budget.
- Indeed, this Bureau is in need of a modest budget enhancement.